

contacting said polypeptide with a labelled ligand for the imidazoline receptor under conditions effective to bind the labelled ligand thereto;
contacting said polypeptide with a candidate ligand; and
detecting any displacement of the labelled ligand from said polypeptide, wherein displacement signifies that the candidate ligand is a ligand for the imidazoline receptor.

REMARKS

Responsive to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects Group I for further prosecution on the merits.


Applicants assert that the subject matter of amended claims 27-31, *i.e.*, Group II, is directed to the same invention as claimed in Group I. Group II, as amended, claims a process that requires culturing a host cell to express the amino acid sequence of Claim 16 (Group I). The claims of Group I are directed to a product that comprises an isolated polypeptide. The invention of Groups I and II involves a product and process of using the product. Claims to a product and claims to process for using the product are appropriate to include in one application for patent. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the claims of Group II as amended be added to the claims of elected Group I.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #147/37315D2).

Respectfully submitted,

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J. D. Evans
Registration No. 26,269

JDE:OAT

CROWELL & MORING, LLP
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844

Appendix with Marked-Up Version

27. (Twice Amended) A method of screening for a ligand of an imidazoline receptor, which method comprises:

culturing a host cell transfected with a vector containing an isolated DNA molecule in a culture medium capable of expressing a polypeptide including an amino acid sequence according to claim 16 which polypeptide is receptive to imidazoline compounds;

contacting said polypeptide with a labelled ligand for the imidazoline receptor under conditions effective to bind the labelled ligand thereto;

contacting said polypeptide with a candidate ligand; and

detecting any displacement of the labelled ligand from said polypeptide, wherein displacement signifies that the candidate ligand is a ligand for the imidazoline receptor.